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TALON

Destroying a legacy

Inside this issue:

**Presidential Remembrance
Gen. Myers commends soldiers**

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Myers commends soldiers

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood
135th MPAD

During a visit to Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Sept. 17-18, Air Force General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, observed that soldiers serving understand their peacekeeping mission and are doing it well.

"(The soldiers) are really proud to be here, to be part of this mission," Myers said during a press briefing on Eagle Base.

Myers, who ate lunch at the Balkan Grille on Eagle Base before visiting troops at Camp McGovern, didn't meet with Bosnian political leadership. But he said his flight over the countryside allowed Lt. Gen. William Ward, SFOR commander, and him to see "tremendous progress" made by eight years of the Stabilization Forces and international community.

"I think a lot of the credit goes to Allied Forces, the NATO forces that have been here doing the mission for eight years," he said.

He noted that SFOR's specific military tasks outlined by the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords are "basically complete."

"So in a sense we're waiting for civilian implementation tasks to catch up with what the military has done," Myers said. "Of course that's being worked on very aggressively by the United Nations and others."

When asked if the European Union could take over the SFOR mission, Myers replied, "Obviously that's outside my area of purview. I can tell you that is something that we know has been mentioned and as far as I

"These troops are well motivated, well trained with seamless integration into the mission and they're doing terrific Gen. Myers

know is being given serious consideration by everybody involved in the situation. It's a little bit outside my lane."

Myers noted that NATO reviews the missions in Kosovo (KFOR) and Bosnia and Herzegovina every six months.

He also told the more than 15 local media representatives that SFOR 14 is the fifth rotation where the Army National

Guard is the lead element of the force structure.

"That is a significant thing," he said. "These troops are well motivated, well trained with seamless integration into the mission and they're doing terrific."

Myers' visit included talking to both the SFOR 13 soldiers of Kansas' 35th Infantry Division and their SFOR 14 replacements from Minnesota's 34th Infantry Division.

The Transfer of Authority between SFOR 13 and SFOR 14 is scheduled for Sept. 30 at Peacekeeper Hall.

Myers, who flew more than 600 combat hours in a F-4 Phantom fighter jet during the Vietnam War, left Eagle Base en route to Poland and Hungary to complete his European visit.



Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told local media that he was impressed with the Army National Guard soldiers serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo during a briefing at Eagle Base Sept. 18.



About the cover: A 500 pound bomb detonated by plastic explosives in the Sava River blows geysers 100 meters in the air Sunday. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

Presidential Remembrance

Former President Clinton participates in Srebrenica memorial dedication

By Media Specialist Aleksandar Ilic

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton officially dedicated the final resting place for many Srebrenica men and boys killed during the Bosnian War at a ceremony in Potocari Saturday.

Clinton received a special invitation from The Mothers of Srebrenica Association to dedicate the Srebrenica Memorial and Cemetery. The site was built on a meadow where Srebrenica family members saw each other for the last time.

While President Clinton played a key role in ending the 1992-1995 wars in BiH, "Srebrenica was the beginning of the end of genocide in Europe," said Clinton as he addressed the crowd of around 20,000 survivors, victims' family members and friends, local officials and diplomats of the international community. "It enabled me to secure NATO support for the bombing that led to the peace that put Bosnia and Herzegovina back on the long road to a normal life."

Clinton met and spoke with The Mothers of Srebrenica Association representatives and then walked to the Memorial Center accompanied by Paddy Ashdown, the High Representative for BiH, Clifford Bond, U.S. Ambassador to BiH, and Lt. Gen. William Ward, Commander of the Stabilization



Photo by Haris Lelic, Media Specialist

Thousands of people gather to observe a ceremony in which former U.S. President Clinton officially dedicated the final resting place for many Srebrenica men and boys killed during the Bosnian War

Force.

The Srebrenica tragedy began July 11, 1995; just days after Serb forces overran Srebrenica, which had been declared a United Nations "safe zone." Srebrenica citizens asked for the promised protection from the U.N. forces headquartered in Potocari and Serb General Mladic promised safety for all at a meeting with the U.N. forces commander. However, women and small

children were segregated and transported into Federation territory and the men and boys were taken to an "unknown direction."

The Srebrenica tragedy is considered to be the last drop that overfilled the inter-

"I hope and pray that Srebrenica will be for all the world, a sober reminder of our common humanity."

Former President Clinton

national community's patience and led to the creation and signing of The Dayton Peace Accords that sent 60,000 NATO peacekeeping forces to BiH.

"I hope the very mention of the name Srebrenica will remind every child in the world that pride in our own religious or ethnic heritage does not require or permit us to dehumanize or kill those who are different,"

Clinton also said. "I hope and pray that Srebrenica will be for all the world, a sober reminder of our common humanity."

Approximately 1,200 Republic of Srpska police officers were involved in the security operation and traffic control of the more than 200 buses and 3,000 small vehicles that transported people to the ceremony.

The Srebrenica Memorial Foundation raised \$4.5 of the estimated \$ 5.8 million required for the completion of the memorial center.



Photo by Sgt. Guy Choate, 343rd MPAD

Former Pres. Clinton addresses approximately 20,000 people at the official opening of the Potocari Memorial and Cemetery Sept. 20. Thousands of Muslim men and boys from Srebrenica were executed in 1995 in what Clinton called 'genocide madness.'

Eliminating the threats

Multinational effort removes bombs from Sava river

By Maj. Jarrod Krull
Task Force Eagle PA

BOSANSKI BROD—Unexploded ordnance is a terribly legacy of war that poses an unpredictable hazard to human life. On Sunday, the threat posed by two 500-pound bombs that lay slightly submerged beneath the Sava River running through Bosanski Brod was eliminated due to the efforts of local citizens and authorities, the soldiers of the Multinational Battle Group from the Stabilization Force's Multinational Brigade (North) and a French Navy Underwater Explosive Ordnance Disposal team's combined efforts.

A local child initially discovered one of the bombs located about 200 meters west of the bridge (and only about 10 meters from the river bank) that connects Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina about a month ago.

Once notified, local authorities contacted the government's demining team who in turn, sought the expertise of SFOR

EOD teams to develop a solution that would eliminate the hazardous ordnance believed to be a result of bombing that was intended for the bridge more than a decade ago.

Later, another bomb was identified approximately 50 meters away and reported to a SFOR patrol.

As a precaution, the Polish EOD from the MNBG marked the location of the bomb with stakes and pink mine warning tape until a specialized unit could be called upon for assistance.

Upon investigation, it was determined that the expertise and special equipment required for underwater demolition was required to safely neutralize the bombs.

Portuguese Army Lt. Col. Jose Fernandes, operations and training of-



ficer for the MNBG, was tasked with finding the necessary expertise to solve this difficult problem.

"Our EOD teams told us that it would be extremely dangerous to destroy the bombs on site as they were located close together and inside the city's population center," said Fernandes.

He added that, "While all the demolition teams possessed the expertise to destroy the bombs in place, they determined that because of the bomb's size and the expected blast, it would be unsafe to destroy them where they were located."

With some luck, it was discovered that a French Navy EOD team was scheduled to take part in a training exercise in Slovenia this week. The MNBG staff contacted the team and coordination was made to move them and their equipment from their ship located in port at Split, Croatia to Bosanski Brod.

The French demolition divers investigated the bombs to determine what precautions were necessary to safely handle them and then move them to a demolition site they designated five kilometers down river – where the river's depth was greater and far away from the local population.

"The bombs were located in a very difficult place – making this the toughest mission I have had to accomplish," said Mas-



French Navy divers load their equipment into a Polish Explosive Ordnance Disposal truck at North Pol Barracks in Camp Doboj before the operation.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Above: Lt. Col. Jose Fernandes communicated with a Polish Battalion soldier as another Polish soldier assists him at the bombsite.

Left: Master Chief Robin Gregory, a French EOD diver, removes tape from around one of two bomb sites on the Sava River near Bosanski Brod Sunday. The bombs were later floated downriver and detonated using plastic explosives.

ter Chief Robin Gregory, a six-year demolition team veteran.

Gregory explained that while the bombs were located underwater, the fact that they were in a shallow depth with limited visibility due to the silt carried by the river's current made his work extremely difficult.

The shallow water made it difficult to safely float the bombs away from shore and the limited visibility made it difficult to determine the condition of each bomb.

Once the team's inflatable boat and specialized removal equipment arrived by a Blackhawk helicopter transport provided by American aviators assigned to Eagle Base, Tuzla. The team began to move the bombs to their detonation site in a slow but methodical method.

During the move, local police and Portuguese soldiers closed the bridge and surrounding roads to traffic to ensure no one would be injured in case of an accidental detonation.

During the day-long process, each bomb was carefully lifted and wrapped in an yellow inflatable lift bag that was secured and filled with air – causing the bomb to float to the surface.

Once floating, the bomb was towed down river, submerged, and then fixed with 2.5 kilograms of plastic explosives.

After the area was cleared, the bombs



A rubber boat flown to the bombsite by a Task Force Aviation Blackhawk helicopter tows the bombs wrapped in an inflatable lift bag to the detonation site several kilometers downriver.

were blown, sending a geyser of water nearly 100 meters into the air.

After operations were complete, Fernandes praised those involved.

"This operation is an example of what can be done through multinational efforts – the destruction of these bombs will defi-

nately make Bosanski Brod a safer and more stable community."

"This is a true success. Two weeks ago it was believed that we would not be able to do this until next year. Instead, the entire operation took little more than 12 hours."

SFOR 14 honors a fallen friend

Story by Capt. Chuck Traxler
135th MPAD

Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers said good-bye to one of their own Sunday in a ceremony honoring the passing of Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lee Tellock, a Minnesota soldier deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of NATO's Operation Joint Forge- Stabilization Force 14 at Eagle Base.

Tellock had just completed a section sponsored at-your-own-pace fitness run

"He was a true soldier."

Brig. Gen. Nash

when he collapsed. Soldiers at the scene began first aid and called for an ambulance from the nearby Eagle Base Medical Facility. Medics arrived on the scene and attempted to stabilize and revive Tellock prior to transporting him to the medical facility where he was pronounced dead at 4:45 p.m. local time. The exact cause of his death is still being determined.

Tellock, a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, headquartered in Rosemount, Minn., volunteered to deploy to Bosnia as part of the Division's Joint Military Affairs section. He was one of more than 1,100 Minnesota soldiers that began arriving in Bosnia earlier this month to support the NATO-led peacekeeping mission here.

Brig. Gen. Richard Nash, Multinational Brigade (North) Commander, expressed his regret at the loss of the sergeant major and offered his sincere condolences to



Photos by Sgt. Sarah C. Danielski, 135th MPAD

Soldiers stand at attention as a prayer is said for Sgt. Maj. Dennis Tellock. Hundreds of Task Force Eagle soldiers attended the ceremony to honor Tellock.

Tellock's family and friends back home, and to all the soldiers of Eagle Base.

"Sergeant Major Tellock will be greatly missed by all the soldiers of Task Force Eagle, the 34th Infantry Division and the

Minnesota Army National Guard as we continue with our mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Nash. "He was a true soldier and a key member of our Noncommissioned Officer Corps. His friends and family are in our thoughts and prayers, and my personal condolences go out to his wife and daughter."

Many soldiers expressed a deep respect for the sergeant major.

"He was so inspiring," said Spc. Stacey Brown, one of Tellock's soldiers in the JMA. "He always made you want to make him proud. When you saw his smile and wink, you knew everything was going to be okay."

Hundreds of Task Force Eagle soldiers attended a ceremony as Tellock was carried to a Michigan Air Na-

tional Guard C-130 that transported him from Eagle Base to Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Sunday. From there, the body will be transported to Minnesota. A memorial service was also held at Eagle Base later that evening.

Tellock was 59 years old and began his military career with the U.S. Navy in 1962. He joined the Guard in 1973.

During his military career, Tellock served in the military police, field artillery and intelligence analyst fields and prior to his deployment to Bosnia was deployed overseas five times as part of annual training; three times to Korea and twice to Panama.

Tellock lived in Wyoming, Minn., and is survived by a wife and daughter.



Chaplain Lt. Col. Alan Johnson salutes as an honor detail prepares to bring the flag-draped casket of Sgt. Major Dennis Tellock to an aircraft waiting to transport his body from Eagle Base to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Look for changes in next Talon

The 34th Infantry Division will be taking over control of MNB (North) next week and the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Roseville, Minn., is proud to support the Red Bull Division and all the soldiers of MNB(N) by producing the weekly Talon, producing video stories and providing general public affairs support.

A few of the stories we are working on for next week include: non-lethal weapons training by 2-136 Infantry Battalion; Task Force Renegade's combined arms live-fire exercise during Dynamic Response and the official transfer of authority.

If you have story ideas or would like to submit articles and photos, please contact the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office at 762-5235. Or email: Capt. Chuck Traxler or Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood.



Photos by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

The 147th Finance Battalion (FWD) is one of the many initial operations capabilities ceremonies that will be featured



The 2nd Battalion, 136 Infantry conducts non-lethal weapons training at Eagle Base.



Pilots from Task Force Renegade conduct a live-fire exercise at Glamac Range.

In our sights



By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Ronald Miranda of the Warrior Medics escapes the grasp of a Task Force Dragon as he rolls out of the pocket during the first MWR Flag Football game Monday night.



Photo by Capt. Bogdan Kociubinski, JVB

Capt. Jason Buckhold poses with a Polish 9mm MP Glauberyt automatic pistol during a Joint Visitor's Bureau officer's visit near Camp Dobo. On the table is a Polish 7.62 mm machine gun.



By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Maj. Bob Hayter, SFOR 13 Multinational Battle Group Liaison Officer, (center) and a French Navy EOD diver and Lt. Col. Jose Fernandes of the MNBG, watch operations on the Sava River Sunday.



By Master Sgt. Tim Peterson, Division PA

Spc. Justin Baker celebrated his 27th Birthday in the White House Tuesday.